



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

County Counsel

At its meeting held March 30, 2004, the Board took the following action:

14

Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

“On January 27, 2004, this Board unanimously approved my motion which asked the Department of Animal Care and Control, the Department of Regional Planning, and County Counsel to provide a report on the State and Federal statutes regarding service animals and about ordinances from other cities and counties to determine how other local jurisdictions deal with the issue of classifying service dogs in the context of the number of dogs an individual is allowed to possess on one property.”

“Federal law prohibits public entities from discriminating against a disabled person. A public entity is required to modify its animal control policies to reasonably accommodate a qualified disabled person who requires the use of a service animal.

“Service animals provide a vital resource for individuals with a disability. Typically, not only do service animals improve the quality of life of a disabled person, the animals become part of the family. Therefore, this County needs to amend the current ordinance to allow service dogs to be exempt from the three dogs per residence limit. This exemption will only serve to provide the accommodation necessary for disabled individuals and shall not be interpreted to mean that an individual does not have to follow other ordinances and regulations in regards to proper maintenance and disposal of excrement, barking and noise, and proper containment of the dogs. In addition, this exemption should only apply to an officially licensed service dog that belongs to a qualified disabled person.”

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Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, unanimously carried (Supervisor Knabe being absent), the Board instructed County Counsel to amend the applicable County ordinances to exempt a dog which is currently acting as an official service dog to a qualified disabled person, from the three dogs per residence limit.

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Copies distributed:

- Each Supervisor
- Chief Administrative Officer
- Director of Animal Care and Control
- Director of Planning